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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Estonian Aviation Developments: Põlkküla Airfield
Expansion/Aerial PhotographyPLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A--
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. "The following information dates through autumn 1953.

Põlkküla Airfield Expansion

2. "In the years 1948-1952 the temporary airfield situated immediately southeast of the railway station of Põlkküla was built out into a large airfield with broad runways. From Põlkküla station one can see and distinguish only the western part of the airfield, viz., one runway 60 m. wide and 2500 (?) m. long going in a northwesterly direction and a western runway of the same width and length going in a southwesterly direction. The runways are covered with concrete.



3. "In the forest east of Põlkküla and south of the railway hangars, underground depots and various technical buildings have been constructed.
4. "On the northwest shore of Lake Klooga barracks have been built in the forest. If one judges from the supplies of vegetables, milk and meat going there, it can be said that about 1500-2000 men are housed in these barracks.
5. "The entire area between the railway stations of Põlkküla and Klooga is surrounded by a barbed wire fence with watchtowers.

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6. "The planes seen rising from, and landing on, this airfield were jet-propelled bombers and two-motor propeller-driven light bombers.
7. "Broad automobile roads have been built to the Pollkula airfield from the Pollkula and Klooga stations.

Aerial Photography

8. "In summer and autumn of 1953 aerial photography was carried out by the 3rd Aerial Photography Detachment in the environs of Tallinn and by the 21st Aerial Photography Detachment in the environs of Tartu.
9. "Both detachments are subordinated to the Northern Administration of Civilian Aviation (Severnoie Upravlenie GVF - Grazhdanskogo Vozdushnogo Flota) in Leningrad. In war time these detachments are automatically transferred to the Air Force. The Northern Administration of Civilian Aviation has altogether seven aerial photography detachments which operate in the northwest part of the USSR.
10. "The detachments used in Estonia this summer and autumn each consisted of three planes of the type PO-2. They were provided with aerial photography apparatus of the type AFA-13. The crew of each plane was one pilot and one navigator-photographer. The pilots were former air force men of a more advanced age. The photographs were taken from the height of 3000 m. Each detachment had a mobile ground base consisting of:

One tank car with fuel and oil
One car equipped as a repair workshop
One car equipped as a meteorological station
Three cars for the personnel.

For every plane there was a mechanic with an assistant at the base. The aerial photography units had not photo-laboratories of their own. The negatives were sent for development to Leningrad. The address was 'The Leningrad Administration of the Chief Administration for Geodesy and Cartography' (Leningradskoe Upravlenie Glavnogo Upravleniia Gheodezii i Kartografii)."

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